

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 18-34 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Prior art of record does not include a method for operating at least two interconnected control units comprising: accessing sensor data with the control units each of the control units having a housing with a plurality of inputs for connecting to a plurality of sensors and processors wherein one of the control units is a master control unit and the remaining control unit is a slave control unit that receives synchronization information from the master unit; executing software program for controlling operational sequences on all the control units in a vehicle; and continuously synchronizing the control units by continuously transmitting synchronization information between the control units; wherein the control units execute the same software program time-synchronously using a settable time lag.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to WAE LOUIE whose telephone number is (571)272-5195. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 0700-1530.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas G. Black can be reached on 571-272-6956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Wae Louie/
Examiner, Art Unit 3661

/Thomas G. Black/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3661